

Dear Neighbor,

I want to write about a battle I am continuing to wage in Hartford—keeping the Greenwich weigh station open longer hours. Surprisingly, this is an issue opposed by the Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Public Safety. I will not be deterred by their strong resistance.

This is a struggle that affects the safety and congestion on our roadways by helping to keep unsafe and accident-prone trucks off of our roads. From a fiscal standpoint, overweight trucks cost taxpayers more money because of the ruts in the highway and excessive maintenance that is subsequently required. Also, keeping the weigh station open longer hours helps in our homeland security efforts. As the first entry into Connecticut from New York, we should be using every tool available to protect our citizens.

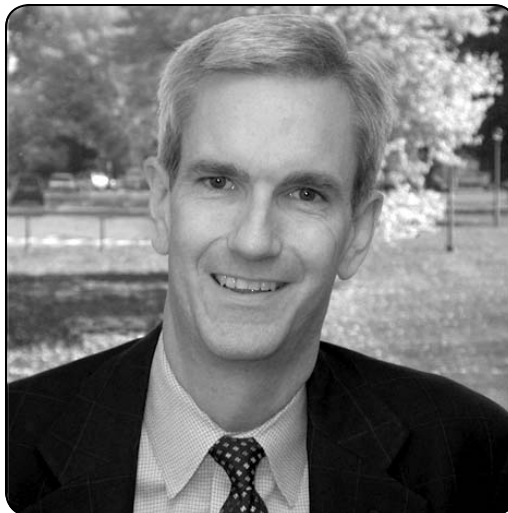
Extending weigh station hours clearly should be a part of our transportation policy because through infractions and fines the stations more than pay for themselves. For every dollar it costs to operate, the state collects two dollars in revenue. In my opinion, it's common sense.

As always, please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Andrew McDonald
State Senator



State Senator

Andrew McDonald

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State Senator Andrew McDonald

Highway Safety/Weigh Stations

Highway safety is a continuing focus of the legislature since the fatal Avon Mountain disaster in upstate Connecticut over a year ago. We have toughened laws to make sure truck drivers are insured at all times. During this session, we are also considering proposals to increase safety on our roads including:

- Funding a new state trooper class for better motor vehicle enforcement
- Deploying more officers from the Department of Motor Vehicles to inspect trucks at mobile sites through the state
- Increasing the hours of operation of our state's weigh stations

I support the Appropriations Committee budget, which put an extra \$1,000,000 for additional weigh station operations. It is an important victory for those of us who are working to keep our highways safe.

